Inter-Cultural Communication

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"And so, my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you: ask what you can do for your country. My fellow citizens of the world: ask not what America will do for you, but what together we can do for the freedom of man."

> John F. Kennedy Inaugural Address, Washington, D.C. 1961

Security Assistance is a Relatively New Field

Formal Security Assistance Initiatives

- ♦ MAP & FMS 1949 (Equip based)
- ♦ U.S. Foreign Assistance Act 1961
- ◆ IMET 1976 (Professional, Mgmt)

 Security Assistance Training has

 Diplomatic Roots

Congress, the State Dept & DoD are critical participants

IMSO

Facilitate Training
Communication
Establish Priorities

Training is Job #1

International Students priorities vary

Soldiers

Scholars

Tourists

Critics

Home-Makers

Making training the priority recognizes the efforts of the students here to learn.

Don't Fear the Dreaded International Incident!

Support the Trainers

- ◆ Establish Communications with Instructors
- ◆ Keep protocol away from the Classroom
- ◆ Listen to Complaints, take Action
- **♦** Brief Instructors on IP
- ◆ Include Instructors in Social Events

Communication & the Training Mission

Training is the Top Priority, establishing communications is fundamental to success

- ◆ IMS to Instructor the vital link
- ◆ IMSO should support & maintain this link
- **♦** Communicate with Instructors
- **♦** Motivate IMS

Motivating IMS

- ♦ Initial Entry Briefing
- **♦** Establish Hard Lines
- ◆ Stay in Touch with Instructors
- ♦ Keep your word
- **♦** Reward Superior Effort

Culture Defined

The totality of socially transmitted behavior patterns, arts, beliefs, institutions, and all other products of human work and thought typical of a population at a given time



International Perceptions of the United States

- ♦ American Media
- **♦ International News Agencies**
- **♦ Movies and Television**
- Even if an IMS has never been to the U.S. before, he still has ideas

International Perceptions of the United States

- **♦**Americans are Wealthy
- **♦**Sexual Promiscuity
- **♦ Violence**
- **♦Racism**
- **♦Don't care about family**
- **♦Uniformed about the World**

American Perceptions of Foreigners

- ◆There are 3 Worlds!
- **♦ I'll Sponsor someone from Germany or France, but.....**
- **♦ They Don't have Christmas?**
- ◆If they aren't for U.S., they must be against us!

American Perceptions of Foreigners

- **♦Don't respect Women**
- **♦**Anti-American
- **◆Impoverished**
- **♦ Religious Radicals**
- **♦ Here for a Vacation**

IMSO environment is Multi-Cultural

- ◆ Generalizations impact on the entire program
- ♦ One man's free pass is another man's insult
- **♦ International does not mean**Allied
- Cultural Challenges or Personal Problems?

Applying Cross-Cultural Information

- ♦ Training is job #1
- Understand yourAudience
- ◆ IP is a tool to define American Culture
- ◆ Maintain perspective/focus on mission



Working in a Multi-Cultural Environment

- ◆ Don't Generalize
- ◆ Don't Fear the "Dreaded International Incident"
- ◆ Tolerance is not the Answer
- ◆ Accept Cultural Differences as a way of life
- ◆ Don't make excuses for IMS

Working in a Multi-Cultural Environment

- ◆ Take Pride in the U.S.A.
- ◆ Be direct when providing Information
- ♦ Honesty with Tact
- ♦ Never Talk Down
- ◆ Invest the time to Clarify Misunderstandings

Using your understanding of Intercultural Relationships

- Empower IMS to work and learn provide information & motivation
- ♦ Empower Instructors to teach IMS Give advice, assistance, & understanding
- ♦ Empower MILDEP to assist you as needed let them know what challenges you have and how they can help.

Making IP Work for you!

- Strong Foundations
- The "I" is for Informational
- •Show & Tell is not effective
- •Tell IMS what you want them to know

The Constitution

The Constitution of the United States of America is the foundation of American Government; Individual Rights; and Culture

- Familiarize Yourself
- Answer questions
- •Don't be afraid to Look It UP!

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

All IP should be linked to this document.

- •Familiarize Yourself
- Making connections in your IP
- •Don't be afraid to Look it UP!

Summary

- Training Mission
- **♦ Establish strong lines of Communication**
- **♦ Provide Information**
- **♦ Exchange Ideas**
- ♦ Understand who your dealing with

Making a Difference

- ♦ Prepare IMS to attend classes and contribute.
- ◆ Prepare Instructors to work with the IMS in their class
- **♦ Focus on the Objectives of IP and the perceptions of IMS**
- ◆ Identifying what "together we can do for the Freedom of Man"